

Amendments to the Specification:

1. Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] A business rules engine 320 may be used to define, implement, and modify dynamically changing business policies that are applied to the business processes via the workflow ~~processor~~ process engine 310. Workflows traditionally have had problems with smoothly integrating business logic or business rules in the automation of business processes. This has resulted in the traditional approach of having separate workflow processors and business logic or business rules engines. The invention breaks with that tradition and smoothly integrates a workflow ~~processor~~ process engine 310 with a business rules engine 320 such that no custom software need be generated by a user. Instead of having distinct interfaces for programming, process flow, and other input and output functions, an interface control layer 330 is utilized to integrate communications interfaces and provide an integrated user interface with the two combined processor functions of a rules engine 320 and a workflow processor 310. Notably missing from the basic architecture of FIG. 3 is the machine specific prior art custom interface 250 of FIG. 2. The custom interface is not needed in the present invention depicted in FIG. 3 because the workflow ~~processor~~ process engine 310 and a business rules engine 320 functions are highly integrated. In one embodiment, the workflow ~~processor~~ process engine 310 with a business rules engine 320 may be implemented in the same processor.

2. Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] One result of the high level of integration of the workflow ~~processor~~ process engine 310 with a business rules engine 320 is that correlation of workflow steps with business rules and the tracking of the progress of a process item in a workflow may now be performed with accuracy. For example, a business document may be the process item that is being circulated through a workflow. At various steps in the workflow, the document may be provided to different entities for different types of handling with respect to programmed business rules. Since the workflow process engine 310 and the business rules engine 320 are closely coupled and since the total orchestration of the flow of the business document is monitored by the

interface layer 330, then tracking and correlation information regarding the business document within the process is well known to the system 300. Thus the benefit of accurate tracking and tight correlation between workflow process step and business rule may be achieved. One mechanism of tracking in the system 300 is via the use of a unified tracking framework. This frame work may be used to track the progress of the exemplary business document as it is circulated to the different entities on the network and other interfaces 340, 350.